





Fiscal Year 2010

Expenditures

Salaries6,498,362
Fringe Benefits1,968,715
Contractors and Consultants 477,840
Travel55,332
Space Costs
Consumable Supplies
Furniture & Equipment
Insurance & Bonding
Printing Costs
Dues to Professional
Organizations
Tuition/Seminar
Relocation Expense
Library
Telephone
Postage
Connectivity
Court Costs
Miscellaneous
Interest Expense
Depreciation
Acquisition of Property
Acquisition of Froperty
Land
Land

CLS: Changing the lives of our clients

When CLS helps a client, we hope our work has changed his or her life for the better. We hope that clients leave our office with a sense of relief, comfort and empowerment. We hope their problems have been solved, or are at least on a path toward solution. We strive to solve the problems of our clients, and eliminate some of the largest obstacles in their lives. society as a whole. Time and again, our advocacy

CLS client Sharyn Mintz and her son, Khallef Dozler. Photo: Stuart Goldenberg

ach year, CLS advocates work to improve the lives of more than 17,000 low-income speople in Philadelphia. Yet, the impact of CLS' work reaches beyond the lives of the clients we see in our offices. When we represent clients, we identify their legal issues and work toward a solution. But often, we also dig deeper. When client after client brings us the same problem, we think critically about the source of the problem and work to remedy it on a greater scale.

As an organization, CLS knows more about poverty law than just about anyone. Our advocates use their expertise to bring change to the lives of our clients, and to shape the future of

on behalf of low-income Philadelphians has been groundbreaking. In the past year alone, CLS work has brought hundreds of thousands of stimulus Jobs to Pennsylvania, fixed a system to enroll thousands of people in Medicare Savings Programs, led to a new federal mortgage assistance program which will provide \$105 million to Pennsylvanian homeowners, and banned the shackling of incarcerated pregnant women. We use the courts when necessary to enforce the law, but we also provide our clients with strategic and active counsel to improve the systems and laws which harm them.

As we approach the 45th Anniversary of CLS' founding, we hope to continue to bring change to the lives of tens of thousands of clients each year. But we also hope that because of our innovative work, there will be many thousands more people who will benefit from what we do and thus never have to ask for our help. We invite you to join us in supporting this important work, bringing us one step closer to achieving our goal of justice for all.

Catherine C. Can Catherine C. Carr, Esq. Executive Director

> Barbara T. Sicalides, Esq. Chair, Board of Trustees

LEARN ABOUT 45 YEARS OF CLS' GROUNDBREAKING ADVOCACY WORK AT WWW.CLSPHILA.ORG.

CLS brings Way to Work program to PA

In the Spring of 2010, CLS, along with the Philadelphia Unemployment Project, prepared a paper that put forward a vision for a statewide subsidized employment program using federal stimulus funds. As a result of this advocacy, Pennsylvania formed Way to Work, a subsidized jobs program that created jobs for more than 28,000 parents and youth. rates; and eligibility criteria for



Thousands of people secured jobs through Way to Work Pennsylvania, a program that earned strong support from workers and employers alike. Photo: Rebecca Vallas

t a time of near-10 percent unemployment, and with businesses around the country struggling to stay afloat, an increasing number of people were running out of options to make ends meet and put food on the table

In advocating for better policies and programs for their families. to help the unemployed, CLS attorneys in the Employment and Public Benefits units learned of an opportunity for states to draw down federal stimulus money from the TANF Emergency Fund to put unemployed parents and youth back to work.

In hopes of persuading Pennsylvania to draw down its share of the TANF EF funds, CLS attorneys Rebecca Vallas and Sharon Dietrich, collaborating with the Philadelphia Unemployment Project (PUP), prepared a paper that outlined a plan for a subsidized employment program in Pennsylvania using money from the TANF EF. The paper included recommendations for the size, scope, and structure of the program; the wage employers and workers. As a result of this advocacy, the State drew down \$78 million from the TANF EF to create Way to Work Pennsylvania, a highly successful program that subsidized private and public-sector jobs for unemployed parents and youth.

Between May and September 2010, the Way to Work program benefited more than 4,800 employers around the Commonwealth, more than one-third of them in the private sector. 28,000 Pennsylvania

including more than 3,900 in Philadelphia, got jobs at these employers through Way to Work.

Subsidized jobs programs like Way to Work have been a win-win for both businesses and unemployed workers, providing critical support to weather the economic recession. Subsidized jobs can serve as the last hope for people who have exhausted their 99 weeks of unemployment benefits and face the daunting prospect of replacing their income in a sluggish economy.

As a result of CLS' efforts, tens of thousands of Pennsylvanians had the opportunity to find jobs during the peak of the recession and were able to provide a steady income for their families when most needed.

In addition to having an essential role in creating the Way to Work program in Pennsylvania, CLS has also partnered with PUP to create a resource website for unemployed Pennsylvanians (PennsylvaniaUnemployed.org).

nine legal units specializing in particular areas of civil poverty law. Each unit represents individual clients, engages in advocacy concerning systemic issues identified through direct client work, and provides community education on relevant legal issues to clients, professionals, and advocates.

Public Benefits Unit

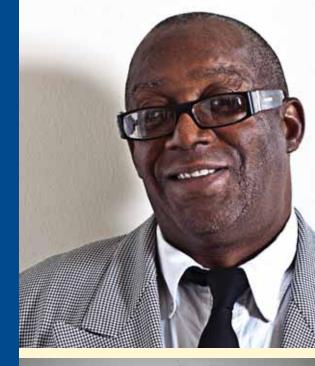
Counsels clients, provides education and outreach services, and advocates regionally and nationally on welfare, disability, and healthcare issues. The unit also includes the Advocating on Behalf of Children Project, which helps disabled children access medical care.

Employment Unit

Represents clients with employment-related problems, including claims on fair wages, family and medical leave, discrimination, and barriers to employment. The unit advocates at the national and state levels on workers' rights issues such as maintaining the protections of the unemployment compensation system.

Energy Unit

Protects the rights of low-income utility customers on service and payment issues, represents group clients on utility rate change cases and serves as the Public Advocate in representing all Philadelphia Gas Works residential customers.







Bar Campaign

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Awards and Honors 2009-2010

Community Legal Services

Philadelphia's Top Work
Places Recognition
Presented by the Philadelphia
Inquirer and the Daily News

Catherine C. Carr, Esq.

Dom Vetri "Champion of the Public Interest" Award Presented by the University of Oregon School of Law, Public Interest/Public Service Program

Catherine C. Carr, Esq.

2009 Philadelphia Bar Foundation Award Presented by the Philadelphia Bar Foundation

Katherine Gomez, Esq.

2010 Next Generation of Leadership: Rising Stars Presented by Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown, Philadelphia City Council

Elizabeth Goodell, Esq.

Housing Alliance Leadership Award Presented by the Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania

Louise E. Hayes, Esq.

2010 Excellence Award
Presented by the Pennsylvania
Legal Aid Network

Louise E. Hayes, Esq.

Senior Attorney Sabbatical Fellowship
Presented by the Independence Foundation

Carol Horne Penn, Esg.

Community Design Award 2010 – Conceptual Design for a Community Law Center Presented by the Community Design Collaborative

Brenda L. Marrero, Esq.

2010 "Unsung Hero" Award Presented by the Legal Intelligencer

Beth Shapiro, Esq.

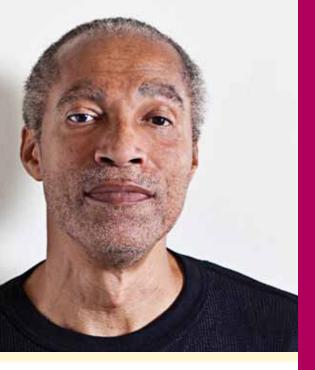
PennDot Advocacy Team Award Presented by HIAS and Council

Kerry Smith, Esq.

2010 Next Generation of Leadership: Rising Stars Presented by Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown, Philadelphia City Council

Richard P. Weishaupt, Esq

Bernard White Community Service Award Presented by Planned Lifetime Assistance Network of Pennsylvania







In 1966, The Philadelphia Bar
Association established CLS as an
independent, 501(c)(3) organization
to provide free legal services, in civil
matters, to low-income Philadelphians.

Housing Unit

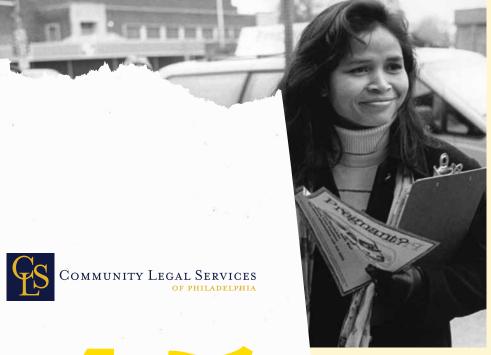
Represents private, public, and subsidized housing tenants in matters involving eviction, illegal lock-outs, and substandard housing. The unit also uses systems advocacy and litigation to address issues ranging from lead paint elimination, to federal housing policy changes, to tenant eviction laws.

Family Advocacy Unit

Advocates for parents to keep their children at home or have them returned from foster care to a safe home, and provides assistance and training to other family advocates. The unit monitors and advocates for improvements in dependency court and foster care.

Consumer/Housing Unit

Represents homeowners in disputes, residential mortgage foreclosures, fraudulent consumer practices, and issues with banking or check-cashing agencies. The unit uses systems advocacy and litigation to address the predatory lending crisis and other fringe banking issues.





YEARS

Providing quality legal services to more than one million clients.



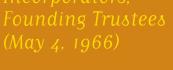












William R. Klaus Robert D. Abrahams Charles W. Bowser Herman I. Pollock Robert L. Trescher

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CLS Executive Directors

Robert D. Abrahams: 1966 to 1967 Harvey N. Schmidt: 1967 to 1970 Laurence M. Lavin: 1971 to 1979 Ernest E. Jones: 1979 to 1983 Jonathan M. Stein: 1983 to 1986 Louis S. Rulli: 1986 to 1995 Catherine C. Carr: 1995 to present Deborah L. Freedman: 2008 to 2009

(Acting, 6 months)

- 1. CLS' Law Center North Central at 3638 North Broad Street.
- Andre Dennis, William Klaus, Amanda Coleman, and David Toomey.
- Louis Rulli, executive director of CLS at the time, presents the Hon. Bruce Kauffman with the 1995 Champion of Justice Award.

Cover photos clockwise, from top left, by: Leandre Jackson, Harvey Finkle Harvey Finkle, Leandre Jackson Harvey Finkle, Harvey Finkle, Harvey Finkle



Building a National Movement

When President Lyndon Johnson declared War on Poverty in 1964, the Great Society programs aimed to give poor people a voice through access to the justice system. CLS was founded in 1966, in the midst of this national movement, to provide low-income communities in Philadelphia with the same legal resources as people of means. Since our founding, we have provided high quality service to more than one million clients who could not afford to pay for legal representation, and who would have faced a variety of devastating outcomes without dedicated, knowledgeable attorneys on their side.

he first three decades of CLS' work were marked by groundbreaking litigation.

We helped scores of clients while also bringing about positive change at the city, state and national levels. In recent years, our work has shifted to include less litigation and more negotiation, education, technical advice and policy advocacy to make change for our clients. We have come of age in a sense, and thus we no longer need to file a lawsuit to be taken seriously. Indeed, CLS has become an important part of our city's fabric, relied upon for our expertise and experience, and widely recognized as one of the largest, most sophisticated and respected legal services programs in the nation.

Our attorneys have become the poverty law experts in our

city and state, with the skills and connections to build collaborative efforts to protect the poor and vulnerable. Our day to day experience assisting thousands of clients and grassroots organizations informs our work and sets our goals. We join forces with individuals we serve, government officials, the private bar, community organizations, poverty advocates and other non-

profit organizations to work on behalf of our clients and their communities. We participate in task forces, head coalitions and bring together leaders to create programs that address our clients' emerging needs. We have used our experience and expertise to build a larger number of people and groups who care about the rights of the indigent, and who see our mission as theirs.

In 45 years, CLS has helped build the national movement upon which we were founded into an inclusive, lasting presence in our society. We look forward to another 45 years, and more, of increasing access to justice for the poor as we work to make ours a better society for everyone.



Staff members at CLS' Law Center South. Photo: Leandre Jackson

Catherine C. Can

Catherine C. Carr, Esq. Executive Director

CLS Past Awardees

The Champion of Justice and Equal Justice awards are given annually by Community Legal Services to recognize those who have made extraordinary efforts to ensure equal access to justice for all, regardless of income.

Champions of Justice

Robert D. Abrahams Irv Ackelsberg Mark A. Aronchick

The Hon. Edward R. Becker

Edward F. Chacker David L. Cohen Drew S. Days III The Hop, Chaka Fa

The Hon. Chaka Fattah

Lawrence J. Fox Rosetta Frank Robert C. Heim

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Equal Justice

Altman Weil Pensa, Inc.

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Lisa Brennan John U. Coates Johnie Mae Coles Doreen S. Davis Dechert LLP Andre L. Dennis Francis P. Devine, III Edward Diver

Christopher C. Fallon, Jr.

Alan Feldman

Stephen A. Feldman

Fine, Kaplan & Black R.P.C. Ethan Fogel and the Dechert LLP Landlord/Tenant Pro Bono Team

Jon D. Fox

Deborah L. Freedman
David E. Francis
Nancy H. Fullam
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Jordana L. Greenwald
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Ernest E. Jones Leon A. King II Eve Biskind Klothen Seth F. Kreimer Howard I. Langer Peter H. LeVan, Jr. Howard Lesnick Roberta D. Liebenberg Charisse R. Lillie Arline J. Lotman

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Joseph A. Torregrossa Suzanne E. Turner

Pam Walz Joyce Wilkerson Beverly A. Williams David J. Wolfsohn

Suzanne J. Young

IOLTA Award David Unkovic

Hall of Fame Award

Carl "Tobey" Oxholm III

CLS Milestones 1965–2010

A Sampling of Significant CLS Work

1962

American Bar Association gives Award of Merit to the Philadelphia Bar Association for its leadership in making legal services available to all regardless of their ability to pay.

1965

Philadelphia Bar Association publishes *Law and the War on Poverty in Philadelphia* by William R. Klaus in response to the growing and overwhelming need for legal services.

1966

Judge Raymond Pace Alexander, of the Court of Common Pleas, grants CLS' charter over objection. The new organization places attorneys in existing anti-poverty program offices in neighborhoods throughout Philadelphia.

1969

CLS opens its own small neighborhood offices around the city.

Shapiro v. Thompson, welfare residency laws declared unconstitutional because they deny an individual the right to travel.

- 1. CLS' Law Center South.
- Receptionists at CLS' Law Center Girard. Law Center South and Law Center Girard were two of CLS' five original neighborhood law centers.

Photos by: Leandre Jackson.

1970

Fox v. HUD, attempts to gain housing assistance for racial minorities removed from their former neighborhoods.

Gurmankin v. Costanzo, strikes down the Philadelphia School District's bar against employing blind teachers.

1971

CLS helps Congress to adopt nation's first Lead Paint Poisoning Prevention Act.

Graham v. Richardson, Supreme Court holds citizenship requirements in welfare programs are unconstitutional.

Brown v. Phila. Housing Authority, federal court order establishes grievance procedure process for public housing tenants.

1972

Swarb v. Lennox and Fuentes v. Shevin, Supreme Court holds confession of judgment and replevin procedures unconstitutional.

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Dotson v. Redevelopment Authority, race discrimination litigation results in more low-income housing in Society Hill.

1973

Nicholson v. Pittenger, institutes a federally-funded, free school breakfast program.

City-wide Coalition Against Childhood Lead Paint Poisoning v. HUD and City of Phila. v. Page, federal court requires de-leading of federally owned properties and public housing units.

Goosby v. Osser, Supreme Court overturns Election Code provisions denying unconvicted pretrial detainees the right to vote.

David v. Romney, Third Circuit holds that properties sold under FHA mortgage insurance programs must comply with local housing codes.



Buckles v. Weinberger, at the outset of the SSI program CLS successfully protects 5,000 disabled Pennsylvanians.

1975

Washington Square East litigation, CLS successfully concludes long litigation with the building of low-income units in this urban renewal area.

CLS expands and reorganizes into five neighborhood law centers with a main office in Sylvania House.

1976

Whitman Park public housing project is ordered to be built in the southern tip of Philadelphia; this will be an ongoing and very public project of CLS.

Resident Advisory Board v. Mayor Rizzo, federal court finds racial discrimination by the City of Philadelphia, RDA, PHA, and HUD and orders Whitman Park public housing to be built.

CLS helps draft Pennsylvania Protection from Abuse Act, a national model for state domestic violence legislation.

Dawes v. Phila. Gas Commission and Koger v. Guarino, federal court holds due process protections apply to water and gas consumers, leading to the appointment of CLS as the Public Advocate before the Gas Commission.

1977

CLS seeks an injunction to prevent a fare hike by SEPTA for the first time.

Alexander v. Polk, Third Circuit rules that cutoff of WIC benefits by the City violates due process; damages awarded.

Liberty Alliance of the Blind v. Califano, Third Circuit requires payment of Social Security benefits to over 2,000 blind beneficiaries whose rights had been ignored by the Social Security Administration.

CLS establishes the Energy Unit to address utility related needs of low-income Philadelphia residents.

CLS reaches peak staffing of 99 attorneys.

1978

Bankruptcy Reform Act is passed by Congress, CLS develops nationally recognized practice in consumer bankruptcy.

Davis v. Bucher, Federal Court holds that federally funded employers may not refuse to hire or fire individuals solely on the basis of past drug use.

Griffin v. HUD, Third Circuit rules that HUD violated the law in its operation of the rent supplement program in subsidized housing.

Finburg v. Sullivan, Third Circuit Court of Appeals strikes down State rules that allowed creditors to seize consumers bank accounts containing Social Security benefits without notifying them of any rights they may have, or providing any procedures to promptly return the seized goods.

Bolden v. PA State Police, one of the first ever race discrimination suits against a state police department. This long, bitterly fought case led to a sweeping victory and the integration of the police force by African Americans.

Cooper v. Califano, court holds portions of Social Security Act unconstitutional because of gender discrimination.

Willing v. Mazzocone, Pennsylvania Supreme Court protects the right of indigents to picket.

Vecchione v. Wohlgemuth, federal court enjoins seizure of Social Security benefits from institutionalized people.

1979

Pugh v. Holmes, CLS assists in obtaining a Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruling establishing an implied warranty of habitability in residential leases.

Philadelphia Legal Services Union founded by CLS attorneys. Paralegals and support staff join District 1199C.

Ferrell v. Pierce, Federal court orders HUD to provide housing to homeowners whose mortgages had been improperly foreclosed upon and to operate a national program providing foreclosure relief.



CLS' Dependency Unit (now the Family Advocacy Unit) is formed to expand representation of parents fighting to preserve and reunite their families.

CLS' Community Reinvestment Act challenges to bank mergers lead to community reinvestment agreements and lifeline bank accounts.

Hines v. Pettit, series of cases ends practice of entering judgments in amounts higher than originally sought without notice or hearing.

CEPA v. SEPTA, court enjoins SEPTA fare increase.

1981

Shadis v. Beal, federal court reinstates Medical Assistance benefits to elderly and disabled Social Security beneficiaries. Over \$1 million in damages distributed.

TAG v. Paulken, federal court vacates decision which denied VISTA refunding for Tenants' Action Group.

Doe v. Colautti, class action leads to statewide regulations protecting the confidentiality of mental health information.

Business Assoc. of University City v. HUD, Third Circuit upholds building of subsidized housing in University City.

CLS and the Philadelphia Bar Association create Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent Program (VIP) to coordinate the private bar's pro bono legal representation of low-income Philadelphians.



Photo by: Harvey Finkle.

1982

Youngberg v. Romeo, holds that a developmentally disabled individual has liberty interests in receiving minimally adequate treatment.

PA v. Local 452, federal court order ends racial discrimination against minority engineers.

Kuehner v. Heckler, Third Circuit enjoins illegal termination of disability benefits which leads to passage of amended statute.

Henderson v. PHA, federal court orders hearing prior to termination of Section 8 housing benefits.

1983

Court stays sheriff's sales on all Philadelphia mortgage foreclosures for more than a year. CLS is instrumental in the establishment of state mortgage foreclosure assistance programs.

USA v. Catherine Street Close, federal court enjoins sale of subsidized housing in Queen Village.

James v. O'Bannon, Third Circuit requires the eligibility standard for welfare supplements for working custodial parents to be based on net, not gross, income.

Lease Purchase Class Actions, CLS sues landlords who offer deceptive lease/purchase or installment sales contracts for homes. Hundreds of tenants obtain titles and repairs to their homes. CLS suits continue through 1996.

1984

Social Security Disability Benefits Reform Act passed in answer to massive litigation strategy, including *Kuehner v. Heckler*, halting disability purges of the Reagan administration.

McCloud v. Saks, federal court order ends landlord/tenant officers' assessment of fees before judicial determination.

1985

Mayhew v. Cohen, federal court holds reduction of welfare benefits to collect overpayments unconstitutional without adequate notice and hearing.

Suong Phan v. DPW, administrative civil rights complaint leads to the hiring of Vietnamese and Khmerspeaking welfare caseworkers and translation of materials sent to welfare recipients.

Harley v. Lyng, federal court requires state to properly issue expedited food stamps to poor persons in exigent situations.

Warren v. Hascher, court holds that residents of personal care boarding homes in Pennsylvania are entitled to the same legal protection as tenants.

Fifty Residents of Park Residence Nursing Home v. DPW, Commonwealth Court requires, for the first time, that nursing home residents must be given notice prior to changes in their level of care.

1987

Mass tax sale by the City of Philadelphia is stopped; thousands of low-income homeowners get individual payment agreements and save their homes.

Hendrickson v. PGW, federal court requires PGW to give notice and a hearing in denials of service for reasons other than nonpayment.

Bennet v. White, successful litigation and ensuing monitoring results in \$6 million of improperly diverted support payments returned to former welfare recipients.

O'Dell v. O'Bannon, District Court orders DHS to provide a range of services for families whose children have been placed in foster care.

1988

In re St. Mary's Hospital, Bankruptcy Court prevents closure of community hospital.

CLS is instrumental in passage of City ordinance making pro se evictions illegal.

1989

Whitaker v. Phila. Electric Co., Third Circuit holds that bankruptcy debtors are entitled to immediate restoration of utility service without payment of deposit.

West v. Brown, Third Circuit holds that public housing utility allowances cannot be used in the calculation of food stamps.

Robinson v. Dawes, Third Circuit holds improper the rules which reduce food stamp awards to adult siblings who live together.

CLS successfully challenges a series of SEPTA fare hikes saving low-income riders millions of dollars; ongoing through 1991.

1990

CLS takes lead in confronting scourge of fraudulent trade schools and obtains millions of dollars of student loan cancellations.

Elderly Law Project (now the Aging and Disabilities Unit) is launched. CLS does pioneer work for rights of poor residents of nursing and boarding homes to quality care.

DPW v. Davenport, Supreme Court upholds discharge of criminal restitution orders as debts.

Sullivan v. Zebley, Supreme Court holds that the method of determining disability for children under the Supplemental Security Income program is illegal and orders the Social Security Administration to rewrite regulations. The case is the largest class action ever won against the SSA.

CLS establishes the Advocating on Behalf of Children Project to address the needs of disabled children.

Vance v. Sullivan, federal court invalidates "Essential Persons" provision of the Social Security Act, resulting in increased welfare awards.

Baksalary v. Smith, federal court rules that worker's compensation benefits can no longer be terminated or reduced without prior notice to recipients and a hearing.

CLS and Philadelphia VIP collaborate to help form the Homeless Advocacy Project (HAP). Both organizations provide office space and support for the project.





Hastings Constitutional Law Quarterly, after national review of legal services programs, concludes that CLS is the most successful legal services provider in the nation.

1993

Williams v. PHA, federal court requires hearing procedure for tenants denied eligibility for Section 8.

Brooks v. PHA, federal court orders PHA to provide additional monies for public housing tenants who pay for utilities in common areas.

Rosetti v. Shalala, Third Circuit decision leads to Social Security Administration's adoption of new standards for assessing disability caused by HIV and AIDS.

Bonds v. White, federal court order improves child support collection and distribution in interstate and intercounty cases.

Bozzi v. Shalala, court orders redeterminations of eligibility for hundreds of widows improperly denied Social Security disability benefits.

CLS and Philadelphia VIP collaborate again to form the Consumer Bankruptcy Assistance Project (CBAP) to address economic issues plaguing low-income Philadelphians.

- Law Center North Central reception desk. Photo by: Leandre Jackson
- 2. Alma Davis, community representative member of CLS' first board of trustees. Photo by: Harvey Finkle
- Members of CLS' Leadership Council: Gerald McHugh, Allan Feldman, Joseph Sullivan, Joseph Tate, Edward Chacker, Catherine Carr (CLS Executive Director), Joanne Zack, Michael Boni, and Dennis Suplee.
- Paralegal Nathalie Emam speaks with a client during intake.
- Housing Unit Attorney Linda Ware Johnson poses with staff and crew during production of "The CLS Review," a public access TV show that educated viewers on topical legal issues. Photo by: Leandre Jackson

1994

Averly v. City of Phila., court order reforms City of Philadelphia's psychological examination of police candidates. 250 African Americans are given new opportunities to become police officers.

Action Alliance v. Snider, federal court orders sweeping revision to the administration of the Medicare Buy-In Program leading to 12,000 new beneficiaries and \$6.2 million in refunds.

1995

CLS plays key role in passing City ordinances requiring lead hazard disclosure and prohibiting retaliatory eviction of tenants after a lead hazard has been found.

CLS and the Philadelphia Bar Association create Philadelphia Legal Assistance (PLA) in the wake of new regulations limiting use of federal funding for legal services. PLA accepts federal funding and works within its restrictions, while CLS forgoes federal funding to continue a

1996

Welfare "reform" results in passage of Temporary Aid to Needy Families legislation; CLS leads advocacy improving implementation of Pennsylvania welfare policies and procedures, preserving benefits for entire groups of clients, such as cash and medical assistance for immigrants and food stamps for single childless persons.

1997

Success Against All Odds v. DPW,
Court order prevents elimination
of the Child Support Pass-Through,
after CLS and the Women's Law
Project convinces the state legislature that children in families getting
welfare should receive at least
part of the child support paid for
them. The legislature then amends
the state statue to specifically
provide for it.



Challenge to merger of CoreStates and First Union leads to agreement benefiting low-income banking consumers.

CLS wins significant rate reductions and concessions from PECO, and strengthens low-income customer assistance programs mitigating the deregulation of electric service.

Farley v. PHA, Third Circuit holds PHA grievance hearing awards can be enforced in federal court.

Pleasant v. Evers, federal court holds unconstitutional court rule requiring tenants to pay three-months rent to stay in their dwellings during an appeal of an eviction order and provides money damages.

CLS launches Community Economic Development Unit to assist nonprofit organizations and micro-businesses in low-income neighborhoods.

1999

CLS creates the Language Access Project to advocate on behalf of immigrants and communities with limited English proficiency.

CLS works with state officials to improve implementation of welfare reform work requirements, preventing massive cut-offs, preserving access to education, enforcing employment rights, and creating public jobs programs.

Maldonado v. Houstoun and Warrick v. Snider, Third Circuit affirms unconstitutionality of residency requirements in two public benefit programs because they deny an individual the right to travel.

- 1. A CLS client. Photo by: Harvey Finkle
- 2. Former Housing Unit attorney and current Energy Unit attorney Philip Bertocci. Photo by: Leandre Jackson
- CLS Executive Director Catherine C. Carr with Mayor Michael Nutter after receiving the 2009 Philadelphia Bar Foundation Award.

2000

CLS' challenge to PECO/Unicom Corporation merger leads to a settlement agreement, which further upgrades PECO's lowincome customer assistance programs to focus on the poorest of the poor.

CLS makes "predatory lending" a household word and develops nationally recognized practice that saves hundreds of homes from foreclosure.

CLS files 11 civil rights complaints against the state DPW, alleging discrimination against people with limited English proficiency at welfare offices and in welfare-to-work programs.

2001

Salter v. PHA, federal court order prohibits the termination of Section 8 housing benefits during eviction proceedings.

2002

As a result of complaints filed by CLS under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the federal government requires Pennsylvania to provide language access to non-English speakers receiving social services.

2003

After seven years of work by CLS and the Women's Law Project, Act 44 is signed into law, helping Pennsylvania women in recovery from addictions rebuild their lives by removing the lifetime ban on welfare and Food Stamps for individuals with felony drug convictions.

Nixon v. Commonwealth, Pennsylvania Supreme Court rules unconstitutional the Older Adults Protective Services Act which barred thousands of exoffenders from working in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities.

2004

CLS advocacy leads to \$900 million in Blue Cross charitable contributions over six years to fund the adultBasic health insurance program for 57,000 low-income uninsured adults in Pennsylvania.

2005

CLS prevents cuts to adultBasic and results in an additional \$17 million in funding.

Turner v. Cash Today, CLS files a lawsuit alleging violations of Pennsylvania's consumer credit laws by Cash Today, a storefront payday loan company, which filed for bankruptcy shortly thereafter and ceased storefront payday lending in Pennsylvania.



CLS represents a coalition of community groups opposing neighborhood bank closings in North Philadelphia, resulting in an agreement to turn a Wachovia branch over to a community-owned credit union.

CLS works to create the Rent Suitability Certificate Ordinance requiring Philadelphia landlords to obtain a certificate stating that each rental property has no code violations, is free from defects, and will be maintained in the future.

CLS advocacy leads to new state law requiring the appointment of interpreters for limited English proficient persons in Pennsylvania courts and administrative hearings.

2007

Erb v. McClellan, class action challenging federal government's passive enrollment of 110,000 low-income Medicare recipients in HMOs which did not serve their medical needs is settled and achieves extensive protections.

CLS plays a major role in passing the Inclusionary Housing Ordinance which requires developers of new residential construction in Philadelphia to set aside 10 percent of units as affordable housing or contribute to the Housing Trust fund.

CLS assists the City of Philadelphia in developing a landmark directive to improve access to programs and services for people with limited English proficiency.

2008

Torres v. DPW, Commonwealth Court lawsuit permits individuals on house arrest to receive cash assistance.

CLS helps establish the Common Pleas Court Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Diversion Program, a national model, which helps a substantial number of homeowners save their homes by preventing foreclosure.

CLS negotiates a settlement to provide low-income electric customers with up to an additional 30 percent of discounts, resulting in \$11 million in benefits annually.

Kaplan v. Chertoff—CLS successfully negotiates settlement of case challenging the denial of SSI benefits for refugees, asylees and other humanitarian immigrants due to delay in processing citizenship applications.

CLS advocacy removes asset test requirement allowing more low-income people to receive Food Stamps.

CLS and the Pennsylvania Health Law Project successfully advocate for a waiver program that allows disabled people to receive care in their homes instead of a nursing home.

CLS, the Women's Law Project, and the Community Justice Project successfully advocate to give child support directly to families receiving welfare, who are now able to keep up to \$200 per month in child support.

CLS is instrumental in the creation of a City of Philadelphia protocol to improve access for vulnerable children and families who are deaf or hard of hearing when they interact with DHS.

CLS advocacy results in the Pennsylvania Banking Department prohibiting predatory internet payday lending to Pennsylvanians. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court unanimously confirms this proconsumer interpretation in 2010.

Pennsylvania enacts a package of CLS-backed laws to reform the residential mortgage industry, including a ban on prepayment penalties for some loans and improvements to HEMAP, which provides mortgage assistance to homeowners in financial distress.



Above: Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judge Annette Rizzo gives CLS' work on the Mortgage Forclosure Diversion Project "two thumbs up" at the 2009 CLS Breakfast of Champions. Photo by: Stuart Goldenberg

2009

CLS' advocacy results in \$7 million over four years in utility assistance for low-income clients, with an additional \$27.6 million energy efficiency and conservation assistance through 2012.

After years of CLS advocacy, Pennsylvania mortgage regulations require mortgage brokers and lenders to document that a borrower has the ability to repay any offered mortgage loans.

CLS advocacy creates *Way to Work Pennsylvania*, a six-month subsidized jobs program that provides work for 28,000 adults and youth statewide.

CLS purchases land at 1402-1412 W. Erie Avenue for construction of a new, permanent office at the intersection of Broad and Erie Avenues.

Garcia v. Sebelius, settlement of federal class action results in faster exchange of data between DPW and the federal government, speeding up access to Medicare for tens of thousands of low-income disabled and elderly individuals in Pennsylvania.

CLS is instrumental in creating the Emergency Homeowners Loan Program. Pennsylvania gets over \$100 million to assist homeowners facing foreclosure due to unemployment, underemployment or medical problems.

CLS helps create the "Heat and Eat" plan to increase food stamp benefits for hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvanians while streamlining paperwork.

CLS advocacy leads to ban on the shackling of pregnant incarcerated women in Pennsylvania's county jails and correctional facilities.

After more than a decade of work by CLS, Women's Law Project, and the Community Justice Project, DPW adopts regulations protecting survivors of domestic violence who need help from the welfare system.

- Receptionist Claudia Bell at Philadelphia VIP, when CLS and VIP shared office space in Sylvania House. Photo by: Leandre Jackson
- 2. CLS clients. Photo by: Harvey Finkle.

The mission of Community Legal Services (CLS) of Philadelphia is to help low-income Philadelphia residents obtain equal access to justice by providing them with advice and representation in civil legal matters; advocating for their legal rights; and conducting community education about the legal issues that affect them.





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Law Center North Central: 3638 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19140 215.277.2400

CLS advocacy helps ban shackling of pregnant incarcerated women

In 2009, CLS helped draft legislation to outlaw the shackling of prisoners giving birth. The state Legislature voted to outlaw the policy of keeping prisoners shackled while they are giving birth and the legislation was signed Creamer drafted the Healthy into law in July 2010.

◀ wo years ago, Tina Torres, a 29-year old Huntington Park resident, spent 17 hours giving birth with her legs shackled together and her left wrist handcuffed to the gurney.

Ms. Torres had been incarcerated during the last seven months of her pregnancy, and even though Philadelphia prisons had previously banned the shackling of prisoners while giving birth, she was forced to be bound until the doctor insisted the chains be removed.

In 2008, the Prison Society's Working Group to Enhance

Services to Incarcerated Women, a coalition of nonprofits that includes CLS, learned that the practice of shackling pregnant women during childbirth was occurring in Philadelphia jails. The group successfully advocated to ban the practice in the city of Philadelphia, and then decided to advocate on behalf of pregnant women prisoners at the

Working with the coalition, Kathleen Creamer, an attorney in CLS' Family Advocacy Unit, began state level. working on state legislation to ban shackling of prisoners during birth in early 2009. Adapting model language developed by the ACLU, Ms.



Birth for Incarcer-ated Women Act. Ms. Creamer presented the legislation to State Senator Daylin Leach, who finalized and then introduced the legislation. The Working Group to Enhance Services to Incarcerated Women lobbied extensively for the leg-Islation, led by Ms. Creamer, who chaired the anti-shackling subcommittee of the coalition.

The legislation passed both houses unanimously and was signed into law in July 2010. The Healthy Birth Act now prohibits the shackling of pregnant women incarcerated

in the Commonwealth's county jails and state correctional facilities in all but the most extreme circumstances. It ends a practice that has been condemned as "barbaric" by the American Medical Association, and improves the health and safety of incarcerated women and their children.

Without of the advocacy of CLS and the Working Group to Enhance Services to Incarcerated Women, it is likely that incarcerated pregnant women would still have to endure the suffering that women like Tina Torres experienced. Ms. Torres' story is written as it was told to Philadelphia Weekly.

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Since its founding in 1966, CLS has served more than one million clients who could not afford to pay for legal representation, and who would have faced a variety of devastating ends without dedicated, knowledgeable attorneys on their side.

Community Economic Development Unit

Represents small and start-up community associations, faith-based institutions, social service organizations, nonprofits, and businesses to improve the quality of life and the economic viability of Philadelphia's low-income neighborhoods. The Child Care Law Project (CLLP), a special project of the CED Unit, is devoted to representing child care providers.

Aging and Disabilities Unit

Specializes in representing seniors and people with disabilities in a wide range of public benefits and consumer matters, including challenges to denials of Medicaid benefits, decisions by managed care organizations to deny care, and violations of residents' right and quality-of-care requirements in nursing homes and personal care homes

Language Access Project

Works to ensure that Community Legal Services is accessible to Philadelphia communities with limited or no English speaking ability, and that legal issues specific to this population are addressed. The illegal failure to provide interpretation and translation services necessary for these communities to access public services is an important focus of the project's work.

CLS settlement gives thousands access to Medicare Savings Programs

In the Spring of 2010, CLS successfully settled Garcia v. Sebelius, a class action challenging state and federal agencies' failure to timely enroll eligible individuals in the Medicare Savings Programs (MSP). The MSP pays Medicare premiums, co-payments and deductibles for low-income beneficiaries, enabling them to access affordable care.



Thousands of people have been enrolled in Medicare, thanks to CLS' advocacy work.

LS client Narcisa Garcia, who is 66 years old, receives \$695 a month in Social Security, her only source of income.

Before she came to CLS, \$96.40 was deducted from her monthly benefits to pay her Medicare Part B premium. When Ms. Garcia applied to have her Part B premiums paid for by the Medicare Savings Programs (MSP), she received a notice informing her that she was eligible for the program.

Yet months passed and the Part B premium continued to be deducted from her check.

The Part B premium payments left Ms. Garcia with less than \$600 a month to support herself, making it difficult for her to afford groceries and pay her utilities. She returned several times to the welfare office to ask when she would be enrolled in the MSP, but could not get any information. CLS had seen scores of clients with similar problems.

Together with the Center for Medicare Advocacy, CLS attorneys Amy Hirsch, John Whitelaw, Pam Walz, Beth Shapiro and Sam Brooks filed suit on behalf of Ms. Garcia, several other individuals and two organizations. After lengthy negotiations, the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare (DPW) agreed to extensive systems and procedure changes which will speed up enrollment, ensure that problems are addressed in a timely manner, and identify and enroll eligible beneficiaries who had previously been missed by

While the changes were being made, Ms. Garcia was enrolled in the MSP program and the system. received a large refund shortly after the case was filed. She says the extra income makes a real difference in her ability to make ends meet.

As a result of CLS' advocacy, thousands of eligible people who had been missed by DPW's computer systems have been enrolled in Medicare, and thousands more have received millions of dollars in refunds.

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